Lusterless wheat for PDS

480. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are being pressurized to accept lusterless wheat by certain State Governments for P.D.S.; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to ensure that only edible standard varieties of natural size, shape and colour are purchased for distribution through PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Considering the requests received from States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Food Corporation of India (FCI) regarding unseasonal rains affecting wheat slocks during procurement operations, and standing crop in advanced stage of maturity, the Government has allowed procurement of wheat with lustre grains up to a maximum extent of 50% in Punjab and certain districts of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. However, such wheat stocks are will within the refractions of the Uniform Specifications and PFA norms and therefore, fit for issue under the Public Distribution System.

Comprehensive Foodgrains Policy

481. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bring before the Parliament a Comprehensive Foodgrains Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Committee has been constituted for this purpose; and

(d) if so, when such Committee was constituted and what are the terms of reference of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.